

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/000159

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
Int.Cl<sup>7</sup> G01N33/53, C12N15/12

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
Int.Cl<sup>7</sup> G01N33/53, C12N15/12Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched  
Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2004  
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2004 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2004Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
CAS ON-TJNE

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	JP 2003-503461 A (Reprogen, Inc.), 28 January, 2003 (28.01.03), & WO 01/01998 A & AU 200058376 A & EP 1191942 A & US 6544740 B	1, 6-9
A	Nobuhiro SUZUMORI, Expression of secretory leukocyte protease inhibitor in women with endometriosis, FERTILITY AND STERILITY, Vol. 72, No. 5, pages 857 to 867, 1999	1, 6-9
X	WO 94/12881 A (HOCHSTRASSER), 09 June, 1994 (09.06.94), & AU 9456946 A	2-4
X	WO 02/22170 A (Takeda Chemical Industries, Ltd.), 21 March, 2002 (21.03.02),	2-4

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

- \* Special categories of cited documents:  
 "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance  
 "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date  
 "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)  
 "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means  
 "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention  
 "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone  
 "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art  
 "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search  
06 February, 2004 (06.02.04)Date of mailing of the international search report  
24 February, 2004 (24.02.04)Name and mailing address of the ISA/  
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

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## Box No. I Nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence(s) (Continuation of item 1.b of the first sheet)

1. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, the international search was carried out on the basis of:

## a. type of material

- a sequence listing  
 table(s) related to the sequence listing

## b. format of material

- in written format  
 in computer readable form

## c. time of filing/furnishing

- contained in the international application as filed  
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form  
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search

2.  In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

3. Additional comments:

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## Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1.  Claims Nos.: 11  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:  
The invention according to the above claim pertains to methods for treatment of the human body by therapy.
2.  Claims Nos.: 10, 11  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:  
Although the inventions according to claims 10 and 11 each involves "a molecule inhibiting the expression of an HRF polynucleotide in cells", it is unclear what molecules are involved in the scope of the above-described molecule.
3.  Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

Claims 1 and 6 to 9 (invention group 1) relate to methods of examining a disease relating to endometriosis by measuring the expression dose of a histamine-release factor, claims 2 to 4 (invention group 2) relate to an HRF oligonucleotide and use thereof, and claims 10 and 11 (invention group 3) relate to a remedy and a therapeutic method.

As stated in WO 94/12881 A and WO 02/22170 A, the HRF polynucleotide had been known and thus the HRF polynucleotide cannot be considered as "a special technical feature". No common matter is observed between the principle of the examination methods and the principle of the therapeutic method.

Thus, this international application has three groups of inventions.

1.  As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2.  As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3.  As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4.  No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

## Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.